IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICGTION

INCOME TAX REFERENCE NO. 700 of 1987

The Commissioner of Income Tax ... Applicant.

vs.

M/s. Moolji Lukhmidass ..... Respondent

Dr. P. Daniel for Applicant.
Mr. D. S. Mhaispurkar for Respondent.

CORAM: V**. C. DAGA AND A. S. AGUIAR JJ.**

Date: 29th June, 2005.

P. C.:

1. By this reference under section 256 (1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has referred the following questions of law for the opinion of this court:

> "Whether on the facts and circumstances of the case, penalty of Rs.74,163/- was leviable under section 271(1)(c), on the assessee firm for Assessment Year 1975-76?"

2. Heard learned counsel for both the applicant and the Respondent. Perused reference proceedings.
3. The learned counsel for the Respondent – assessee invited our attention to the instructions issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes , New Delhi, dated 27th March, 2000 wherein monetary limit for the department for filing reference to the High Court earlier fixed for

Rs.50,000/- came to be revised and fresh instructions are issued by the Board to file reference only in cases where tax effect exceeds Rs.2,00,000/-. Learned counsel for applicant – revenue could not dispute this fact.

4. This Court in the case of **Commissioner of Income-tax v/s. Camco Colour Co.,** reported in ITR Vol. 254 (2002), page 565 ruled that the above instructions are binding on the Department.
5. The above instructions dated 27th March, 2000 reflects the policy decision taken by the Board not to raise questions of law where the tax effect is less than the amount prescribed in the instructions with a view to reduce litigation before High Courts and Supreme Court. The circular is binding on the Revenue. There is no justification to proceed with the decades old references having negligible tax effect.
6. We, thus, do not think it necessary to answer the reference made to this Court for the Assessment Year 19875-76. Accordingly, reference stands returned unanswered with no order as to costs.

(A. S. AGUIAR J.) (V. C. DAGA J.)

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